

March 31, 2010

Dear DCPS Families,

It is time to begin the DCPS Enrollment Process for the 2010-2011 School Year. Over the past year we have been hard at work to bring changes to the system that you have asked for. Graduation rates and student performance are rising, we are increasing and improving middle school options across the city, and we now have a themed school in every ward, with Catalyst Schools offering arts programs as well as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) options.

I am confident that these and other changes are making DCPS a better school system every year, and based on our successes with early enrollment last year, we're starting the enrollment process early this year as well.

Why is it important to enroll early?

The sooner you enroll, the better we are able to ensure a smooth school opening, as this will help us to match staffing to the projected number of students, order enough textbooks, etc.

Please fill out the enclosed forms and bring them to your child's school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school directly or the Office of School Operations at (202) 442-5007.

Improvements this Year

- We have a streamlined Out-of-Boundary Lottery application that allows for greater school choice. Parents can apply to more schools across the District, and will find a better structured waitlist management process.
- We've expanded our early childhood program by adding more classes for three- and four-year old children and have integrated Head Start and non-Head Start students in 70 of our 85 elementary schools. This blending model means that all Head Start services will be available to all three and four year-old students in these elementary schools.

Thank you for choosing to send your child to one of our schools next year. I look forward to continuing to work with you to meet your child's learning needs and plan for an engaging school year next year.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee
Chancellor